

Morning Highlights

Sunday, June 19, 2011
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Time: 11:00 a.m.

Contacts
Alaska Interagency Fire Information Center: (907) 356-5511
Report Fires: 911

Wildfire Update

Two new fires were reported yesterday: an unattended burn pile, and a greenhouse fire that spread to the wildlands. Both are now out. Statewide, 33 fires are currently active, with six of these staffed and the remainder in monitor status. There have been 329 fires this year to date in Alaska, and 263,388 acres have burned. Current fires of note include:

The **Hastings Fire**, 15 miles northwest of Fairbanks, is 22,819 acres and is 61 percent contained. Warmer weather may potentially increase fire activity where heat sources remain. Fire behavior includes backing surface fire in some locations. Minimal fire spread is expected. Work on the fire includes direct fireline construction, mop-up, fireline rehab, and equipment backhaul. A burnout on the east side of the fire began yesterday and may continue today if conditions allow. This could make smoke visible from surrounding areas.

The **East Volkmar Fire**, 25 miles northeast of Delta Junction, is 58,059 acres and is 28 percent contained. Warmer weather revealed one hotspot in the interior, but minimal fire activity otherwise occurred. Containment objectives have been met on the west side of the fire, and the remaining remote portions are uncontained. Crews are performing mop-up, rehab, and backhaul activities. Demob of some resources has begun.

The **Little Creek Fire**, 36 miles south of Tanana, is 25,181 acres and zero percent contained. Fire behavior includes smoldering, creeping ground fire, and isolated single tree torching. A hotshot crew and 8 smokejumpers are on the fire to aid in a planned burnout operation around Akers ranch.



Happy Fathers Day to all firefighting Dads in Alaska! Be safe for your families today.



For further information:

Alaska Fire Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>

Fire news releases: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/newsroom.php>

Fire Weather

Today will bring continued warming and drying across much of Alaska. However, southwest Alaska and the eastern Alaska Range will see isolated thunderstorms and showers. Clouds will increase across southern Alaska, especially in the Copper River and South Central areas. After today, moisture will move into the state from the east, bringing rain through Wednesday morning. Low pressure will concurrently move in from the Bering Sea, bringing waves of moisture to the Southwest, South Central, and Panhandle areas. Please continue to be careful with fire in the outdoors throughout Alaska's fire season.

Aviation Awareness

The TFR ceiling on the Hastings Fire has been lowered to 4,000 MSL. The new NOTAM FDC is 1/8460. The East Volkmar Fire (FDC 1/7595) remains unchanged. Helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft support fire suppression and crew/cargo movement throughout the state, frequently in areas with visibility restricted due to smoke. There have recently been aircraft incursions into fire TFR areas. Please check NOTAMS for Temporary Flight Restrictions: <http://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html>. Report new fires you may observe to the nearest FAA facility.

Alaska Fire Information

The Alaska Interagency Fire Information Center (also called Joint Information Center or JIC) continues to be operational. The information center is an interagency communications office responsible for researching, coordinating and disseminating wildland fire information to the public and the media. The JIC is activated when fire officials determine that the number and complexity of wildland fires burning across the state call for additional public information presence and coordination. Due to the current decrease in fire activity, office hours have been reduced to 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., 7 days a week. Phone 907-356-5511 for the latest fire information.

Wildfire Smoke

Please use caution and turn on headlights when driving in areas where visibility is impacted by smoke. Individuals with health concerns should consult personal medical providers.

- AK Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) – Smoke: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- DEC Air Quality Advisories/Alerts: <https://myalaska.state.ak.us/dec/air/airtoolsweb/AirOnlineServices.aspx>

Fire Information Contacts

- **Alaska Interagency Fire Information Center**
 - 907-356-5511
 - AlaskaJIC@gmail.com
- **Hastings Fire Information:**
 - 907-479-4801
 - <http://inciweb.org/incident/2261/>
 - HastingsFire@gmail.com
- **East Volkmar Fire Information:**
 - 907-328-8593
 - <http://inciweb.org/incident/2253/>
 - FireInfoDAF@gmail.com
- **Fairbanks Area Division of Forestry Fire Information:**
 - Terry Anderson: 451-2626 x2
 - FireInfoFAF@gmail.com

- Fairbanks North Star Borough Smoke Visibility/ Air Quality:
<http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality> and
<http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality/Docs/ParticulateLevels.pdf>

Additional References

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/>
 - Map of Current Fires: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>
 - Alaska Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>
 - National Fire Situation Report: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>
 - Guide to Wildland Fire Suppression in AK:
<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/news/psa/Media%20Guide%20to%20AK%20Wildland%20Fire%20Suppression.pdf>
- Alaska Division of Forestry (Burn Permit Info): <http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>
- Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group - Education and Reference Materials:
<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php>
- Protect your home and property!: <http://firewise.org/> and
<http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/firewise09.pdf>
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns):
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info):
(907) 451-2240, <http://511.alaska.gov/>
- National Parks Service: <http://www.nps.gov/akso/Fire/firehome.htm>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife: <http://www.fws.gov/fire/>
- USDA Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/>
- Anchorage Fire Department: www.muni.org/fire
- National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
- Temporary Flight Restriction Information: <http://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html>
- Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.faa.gov/>

AICC Morning Highlights is compiled by Alaska Division of Forestry and BLM Alaska Fire Service.